

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A module filter comprising:

    a container comprising at least one container housing, a container bottom, at least one admission for a non-filtrate, and a discharge for a filtrate;

    at least one filter module arranged in said container housing comprising several stacked, disc-shaped filter cells, each filter cell substantially comprising first and second filter material layers, each filter material layer having an inner surface and an outer surface, the filter material layers having peripheral edges that are connected sealingly, the filter cell having a hollow inner space between the filter material layers and further comprising a central opening wherein said central openings of the several filter cells form at least one central channel in fluid communication with said hollow inner space of each of said filter cells;

    a support element in each filter cell, the support element spacing apart the inner surfaces of each filter material layer, the support element comprising a ring and having an outer diameter, wherein the peripheral edges of the filter material layers are spaced from the outer diameter of the support element to provide said hollow inner space, the ring having openings providing fluid communication between said central channel and said hollow inner space of said filter cell;

    said central channel communicating with said admission for the non-filtrate;

    said container housing having a space surrounding said filter cells wherein said space communicates with said discharge for the filtrate;

    circular disc-shaped drainage support bodies arranged between said filter cells, wherein said drainage support bodies extend at least approximately over the entire outer surface of the filter material layers of said filter cells;

    said drainage support bodies having a plurality of drainage channels, respectively, wherein said drainage channels extend toward an outer rim of said drainage support bodies;

    said drainage support bodies having projections projecting axially away from said drainage support bodies and extending in a radial direction of said drainage support bodies, respectively;

    wherein between said projections intermediate spaces are defined; and

    wherein said intermediate spaces form said drainage channels and are configured to remove the filtrate.

22. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said filter cells and said drainage support bodies have a descending slope extending from said central channel radially outwardly.

23. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said drainage support bodies and said filter cells are formed as circular disks and have at least substantially the same diameter.

24. (Currently Amended) The module filter according to claim 23, wherein said drainage channels extend in the form of radial beams to a peripheral rim of said drainage support ~~body~~ bodies.

Claim 25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said support element has an inner diameter (D) matching approximately the diameter of said central opening.

27. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a flat annular base body, wherein said base body has spaced apart axial projections extending radially strip-shaped on both sides of said base body.

28. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, wherein each one of said filter cells further comprises a frame, wherein radially outer rims of said first and second filter material layers are connected by said frame to one another.

29. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 28, wherein said filter material layers are nonwoven filter cloth.

30. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 28, wherein each one of said frames comprises an underside with support knobs and said frames are supported on one another by said support knobs.

31. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, further comprising a closure ring arranged axially at the ends of said filter module, respectively, and coaxially to

said central opening, wherein said filter module comprises several of said filter cells and several of said drainage support bodies alternately stacked on one another.

32. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 31, further comprising a securing element configured to secure said alternately stacked filter cells and drainage support bodies and to receive tensile forces, wherein said securing element is arranged at a side of said alternately stacked filter cells and drainage support bodies facing said central channel.

33. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 32, wherein said securing element comprises a metal sleeve and has a mantle surface provided with a plurality of openings, wherein said sleeve has end faces and is connected with said end faces positive-lockingly with said closure rings.

34. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 33, wherein said closure ring has a recess in the form of an annular ring configured to receive a sealing ring.

35. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 21, further comprising:  
a central tie rod arranged in said central channel;  
a fastening arrangement, wherein said central tie rod is supported by said fastening arrangement on said container bottom; and  
a drainage cover plate arranged at an upper end of said central tie rod.

36. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein said container has a container cover and wherein said drainage cover plate is supported by a support cap with support ribs on said container cover.

37. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein said drainage cover plate is a press plate provided with an axial tie rod.

38. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 35, wherein several of said filter modules are aligned with said central openings axially above one another and are secured by said drainage cover plate in said container.

39. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 38, wherein said container has a container cover and wherein said drainage cover plate is supported by a support cap with support ribs on said container cover .

40. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 38, wherein said drainage cover plate is a press plate provided with an axial tie rod.

41. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 38, further comprising a drainage bottom plate arranged between said container bottom and a lowermost one of said filter modules, wherein said drainage bottom plate has a recess in an area neighboring said discharge.

42. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 38, further comprising a pressing device configured to secure said filter modules between said drainage cover plate and said drainage bottom plate.

43. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 42, wherein said container has a container cover and wherein said pressing device is supported external to said container on said container cover.

44. (Previously Presented) The module filter according to claim 42, wherein said pressing device is supported inside said container on said container bottom by said central rod and said fastening arrangement.

In re Appln. of DIEMER et al.  
Application No. 09/868,425

*AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS*

The attached two sheets include changes to Fig. 1 and Fig. 9, respectively. The sheet including Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1, wherein reference numeral "47" has been replaced with --77--. The sheet including Fig. 9 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9, wherein the sheet shows two variants of pressing devices. In the replacement sheet including Fig. 9, the external pressing device 49' is illustrated.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)